

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claims 4, 8, and 10 as follows.

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1. (Original) A method of operating a receiver, comprising energizing the receiver, detecting the presence of a carrier signal, de-energising the receiver if the carrier signal is not detected, maintaining the energisation of the receiver if the carrier signal is detected, detecting if the received signal is decodable, de-energising the receiver if the signal is not decodable and if it is decodable, decoding the signal.
 2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized by measuring the received signal strength indication (RSSI) as a means for detecting the presence of the carrier signal.
 3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized by measuring signal quality as a measure for determining if a signal is decodable.
 4. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising a primary station having a transmitter for transmitting a signal and at least one secondary station having a receiver for receiving signals from the primary station, the receiver comprising signal receiving means, means for detecting the presence of a received signal, means for detecting the quality of the received signal and power control means for de-energising the receiver if the presence of a signal is not detected or if the presence of the signal is detected and the detected signal is not decodable

~~the quality of the signal is unacceptable.~~

5. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that means for determining the received signal strength indication (RSSI) is coupled to the signal receiving means.

6. - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A battery-powered radio, comprising:

a receiver circuit, the receiver circuit operable to produce a received signal from a channel;

a received signal strength indicator circuit coupled to the receiver circuit, the received signal strength indicator circuit operable to produce an output indicating an amount of power in the channel;

a demodulator circuit coupled to the receiver circuit, the demodulator operable to produce a demodulated signal from the received signal;

a decoder circuit coupled to the demodulator circuit;

a signal quality indicator circuit coupled to the demodulator circuit; and

a microprocessor coupled to the receiver, the received signal strength indicator circuit, the signal quality indicator circuit, and the decoder circuit;

wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize and de-energize the receiver circuit; determine the presence of a carrier with a carrier detect false rate, based, at least in part, on the power in the channel, and to determine an acceptable

signal quality with a signal quality false rate, based, at least in part, on an output of the signal quality indicator circuit;

wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize the receiver circuit for a first period of time, and, if the carrier is determined to be present, to then maintain the receiver in the energized state until a determination is made as to whether acceptable signal quality has been obtained and to de-energise the receiver if the carrier is determined to be present and the signal quality is not acceptable.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The battery-powered radio of Claim 8 9, wherein the microprocessor is operable to de-energize the receiver circuit if the carrier is determined to not be present, without performing a signal quality determination.

11. (Previously Presented) The battery-powered radio of Claim 10, further comprising:

- a metering unit coupled to the microprocessor;
- an encoder circuit coupled to the microprocessor; and
- a radio transmitter circuit coupled to the encoder circuit.